November 23, 1956

# BUSINESS STATISTICS

## A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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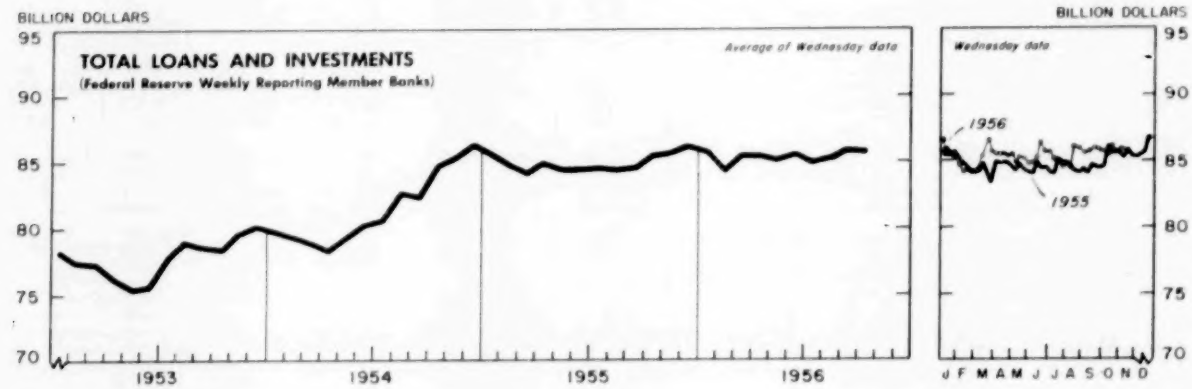
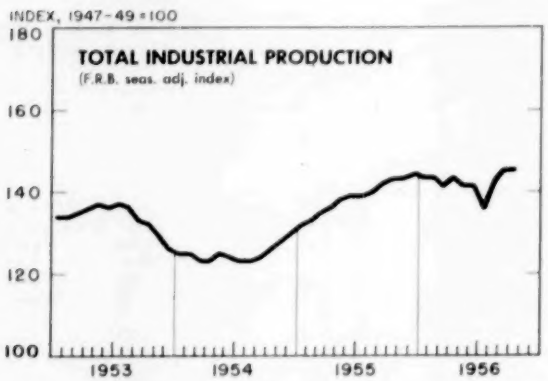
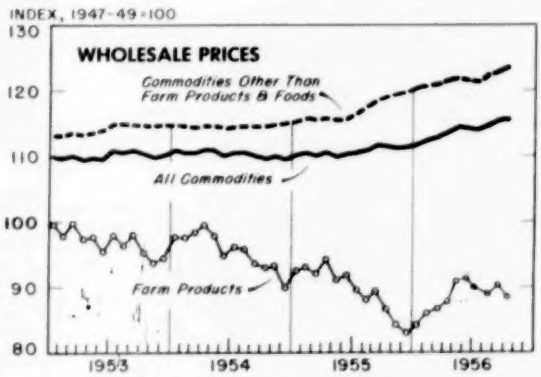
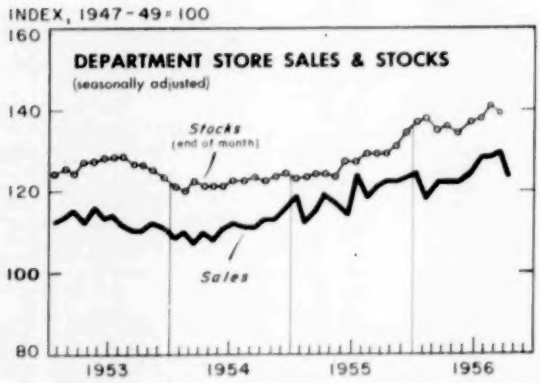
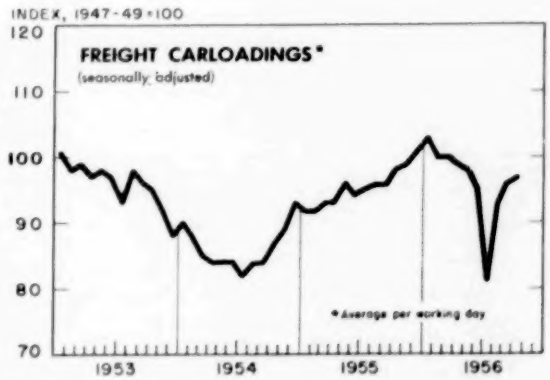
### SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



## WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

| ITEM | 1955 | | 1956 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. 12 | Nov. 19 | Oct. 27 | Nov. 3 | Nov. 10 | Nov. 17 |
| Commodity prices, wholesale: | | | | | | |
| All commodities.....1947-49=100.. | ..... | *111.2 | ..... | ..... | 115.4 | 115.6 |
| Farm products.....do.... | ..... | *84.1 | ..... | ..... | 87.9 | 87.6 |
| Foods, processed.....do.... | ..... | *98.8 | ..... | ..... | 102.6 | 102.8 |
| All other.....do.... | ..... | *119.4 | ..... | ..... | 123.6 | 123.9 |
| 22 commodities 2/.....do.... | **88.4 | 88.6 | 90.1 | 90.6 | **91.2 | 92.0 |
| Department store sales.....do.... | 141 | 142 | 128 | 124 | 137 | ..... |
| Insured unemployment, total.....thous.. | 900 | 917 | 936 | 954 | ..... | ..... |
| State programs.....do.... | 813 | 826 | 860 | 878 | ..... | ..... |
| Finance: | | | | | | |
| Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol.. | 30,656 | 30,794 | 30,864 | 30,793 | 30,963 | 31,141 |
| Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do.... | 25,963 | 26,272 | 25,866 | 25,466 | 25,762 | 25,954 |
| Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do.... | 18,899 | 18,883 | 19,137 | 18,810 | 19,004 | 18,996 |
| Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do.... | 556 | 681 | 596 | 390 | 575 | 643 |
| Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/ | | | | | | |
| Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol.. | 55,955 | 56,027 | 56,206 | 56,069 | 55,588 | ..... |
| Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do.... | 21,731 | 21,628 | 22,023 | 22,053 | 21,983 | ..... |
| Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do.... | 85,259 | 85,781 | 85,584 | 85,660 | 85,602 | ..... |
| U. S. Government obligations.....do.... | 30,300 | 30,377 | 26,057 | 25,961 | 25,752 | ..... |
| Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do.... | 25,485 | 25,783 | 29,692 | 29,931 | 30,121 | ..... |
| Real-estate loans (gross).....do.... | 8,106 | 8,143 | 8,849 | 8,857 | 8,857 | ..... |
| Failures, industrial and commercial.....number.. | 207 | 214 | 267 | 271 | 219 | 240 |
| Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent.. | 3.28 | 3.28 | 3.83 | 3.83 | 3.87 | 3.88 |
| Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand.& Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100.. | 320.5 | 327.4 | 336.0 | 333.1 | 343.9 | 337.8 |
| Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.... | 368.3 | 376.8 | 392.4 | 388.9 | 402.3 | 394.2 |
| Production: | | | | | | |
| Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons.. | 1,674 | 1,748 | 1,740 | 1,765 | 1,694 | ..... |
| Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr.. | 10,878 | 11,149 | 11,391 | 11,487 | 11,522 | ..... |
| Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number.. | 209,141 | 206,536 | 125,967 | 136,420 | 153,277 | 160,214 |
| Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl.. | 6,808 | 6,851 | 6,998 | 6,981 | 7,050 | ..... |
| Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons.. | 2,404 | 2,394 | 2,491 | 2,493 | 2,463 | 2,466 |
| Percent of capacity 5/..... | #99.6 | #99.2 | 101.2 | 101.3 | 100.1 | 100.2 |
| Freight carloadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars.. | 792 | 772 | 817 | 800 | 773 | ..... |
| Miscellaneous.....do.... | 394 | 379 | 394 | 388 | 377 | ..... |

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning November 19, 1956: Production, 2,458 thous. short tons; operating rate, 99.8 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for November 1955. ** Wednesday price. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

| ITEM | 1955 | | 1956 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | September | October | July | August | September | October |
| GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS | | | | | | |
| Industrial production (FRB): | | | | | | |
| Unadjusted, combined index.....1947-49=100.. | 142 | 147 | 128 | 142 | r146 | p150 |
| Manufactures.....do.... | 144 | 150 | 129 | 143 | r147 | p152 |
| Durable manufactures.....do.... | 157 | 164 | 139 | 155 | r162 | p168 |
| Primary metals.....do.... | 143 | 149 | 62 | 118 | r145 | p149 |
| Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do.... | 165 | 173 | 160 | 168 | r172 | p180 |
| Fabricated metal products.....do.... | 142 | 145 | 124 | 135 | r143 | p147 |
| Machinery.....do.... | 161 | 169 | 157 | r167 | r175 | p181 |
| Transportation equipment.....do.... | 185 | 200 | 187 | 188 | r182 | p199 |
| Instruments and related products.....do.... | 155 | 158 | 162 | r168 | r173 | p176 |
| Furniture and fixtures.....do.... | 127 | 128 | 115 | r123 | r125 | p126 |
| Lumber and products.....do.... | 136 | 138 | 116 | 135 | r134 | p131 |
| Stone, clay, and glass products.....do.... | 158 | 161 | 156 | 164 | r158 | p163 |
| Miscellaneous manufactures.....do.... | 149 | 154 | 135 | 145 | r151 | p155 |
| Nondurable manufactures.....do.... | 130 | 135 | 119 | 131 | r133 | p136 |
| Printing and publishing.....do.... | 131 | 135 | 125 | r129 | 134 | ..... |
| Petroleum and coal products.....do.... | 136 | 138 | 132 | r142 | r144 | p140 |
| Minerals.....do.... | 126 | 127 | 119 | 130 | r131 | p132 |
| Coal.....do.... | 83 | 88 | 62 | 87 | 91 | p93 |
| Crude oil and natural gas.....do.... | 142 | 143 | 149 | 150 | r146 | p147 |
| Adjusted, combined index.....do.... | 142 | 143 | 136 | 142 | r145 | p145 |
| Manufactures.....do.... | 144 | 145 | 137 | r144 | r147 | p147 |
| Durable manufactures.....do.... | 160 | 161 | 147 | r158 | r164 | p165 |
| Primary metals.....do.... | 146 | 148 | 68 | 124 | r148 | p148 |
| Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do.... | 170 | 173 | 169 | r172 | r176 | p178 |
| Fabricated metal products.....do.... | 141 | 142 | 129 | r134 | r142 | p144 |
| Machinery.....do.... | 161 | 164 | 172 | r174 | 176 | p176 |
| Transportation equipment.....do.... | 205 | 208 | 190 | 195 | r198 | p202 |
| Instruments and related products.....do.... | 155 | 156 | 167 | 171 | r173 | p175 |
| Furniture and fixtures.....do.... | 125 | 124 | 124 | 124 | r124 | p121 |
| Lumber and products.....do.... | 127 | 130 | 125 | r129 | r126 | p124 |
| Stone, clay, and glass products.....do.... | 155 | 153 | 160 | r160 | r154 | p155 |
| Miscellaneous manufactures.....do.... | 145 | 145 | 145 | 148 | 146 | p146 |

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

| ITEM | 1955 | | 1956 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | September | October | July | August | September | October |
| GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS - Continued | | | | | | |
| Industrial production (FRB) - Continued | | | | | | |
| Adjusted index - Continued | | | | | | |
| Manufactures - Continued | | | | | | |
| Nondurable manufactures.....1947-49=100.. | 128 | 129 | 127 | r129 | 129 | p130 |
| Printing and publishing.....do.... | 130 | 131 | 133 | 134 | 133 | ..... |
| Petroleum and coal products.....do.... | 135 | 137 | 132 | r139 | r143 | p138 |
| Minerals.....do.... | 123 | 123 | 122 | 128 | r128 | p128 |
| Coal.....do.... | 80 | 80 | 77 | 87 | 87 | p85 |
| Crude oil and natural gas.....do.... | 142 | 143 | 149 | 150 | r146 | p147 |
| Consumer durables output (FRB): | | | | | | |
| Unadjusted index, total.....do.... | 136 | 146 | 117 | r120 | r112 | p132 |
| Major consumer durables.....do.... | 145 | 157 | 121 | r123 | r110 | p136 |
| Autos.....do.... | 130 | 153 | 127 | 109 | 59 | p105 |
| Major household goods.....do.... | 159 | 162 | r117 | r137 | 156 | ..... |
| Other consumer durables.....do.... | 115 | 120 | 106 | r115 | r116 | p121 |
| Adjusted index, total.....do.... | 154 | 152 | 129 | r127 | 127 | p128 |
| Major consumer durables.....do.... | 172 | 168 | 137 | r134 | 133 | p134 |
| Autos.....do.... | 195 | 194 | 122 | 125 | 119 | p118 |
| Major household goods.....do.... | 156 | 148 | 153 | r144 | 149 | ..... |
| Other consumer durables.....do.... | 111 | 114 | 110 | 113 | r113 | p115 |
| COMMODITY PRICES | | | | | | |
| Wholesale price index, all commodities.....1947-49=100.. | 111.7 | 111.6 | 114.0 | r114.7 | r115.5 | 115.5 |
| Economic sector: | | | | | | |
| Crude materials for further processing.....do.... | 94.9 | 93.2 | 95.0 | 96.4 | 98.7 | 95.0 |
| Intermediate materials, supplies, and components...do.... | 118.6 | 119.1 | 121.3 | 122.6 | r123.0 | 123.5 |
| Finished goods 1/.....do.... | 111.5 | 111.3 | 114.0 | 114.1 | r115.3 | 115.6 |
| Farm products.....do.... | 89.3 | 86.8 | 90.0 | 89.1 | r90.1 | 88.4 |
| Fruits and vegetables, fresh and dried.....do.... | 102.1 | 92.9 | 111.8 | 94.8 | 95.3 | 97.6 |
| Grains.....do.... | 81.4 | 82.4 | 88.4 | 88.8 | 90.7 | 84.0 |
| Livestock and live poultry.....do.... | 75.5 | 71.8 | 72.9 | 76.0 | 75.7 | 73.0 |
| Foods, processed.....do.... | 101.5 | 100.2 | 102.2 | 102.6 | 104.0 | 103.6 |
| Cereal and bakery products.....do.... | 114.4 | 114.8 | 114.8 | 114.5 | r114.9 | 115.1 |
| Dairy products and ice cream.....do.... | 104.3 | 105.0 | 107.9 | 108.9 | r109.7 | 110.9 |
| Fruits and vegetables, canned and frozen.....do.... | 106.8 | 107.4 | 109.3 | 107.3 | r106.8 | 106.4 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish.....do.... | 87.5 | 81.6 | 83.7 | 85.1 | 89.3 | 85.7 |
| Commodities other than farm products and foods.....do.... | 118.5 | 119.0 | 121.4 | 122.5 | r123.1 | 123.6 |
| Chemicals and allied products.....do.... | 106.0 | 106.5 | 107.3 | 107.3 | 107.1 | 107.7 |
| Chemicals, industrial.....do.... | 118.2 | 118.9 | 122.1 | 122.1 | 121.9 | 122.6 |
| Fuel, power, and lighting materials.....do.... | 108.0 | 108.0 | 110.7 | 110.9 | r111.1 | 111.6 |
| Petroleum and products.....do.... | 114.0 | 114.2 | 118.8 | 118.3 | 118.4 | 118.3 |
| Furniture, other household durables.....do.... | 116.4 | 116.9 | 118.5 | 119.1 | 119.7 | 120.6 |
| Appliances, household.....do.... | 106.2 | 106.1 | 104.4 | 105.0 | 105.5 | 106.3 |
| Hides, skins, and leather products.....do.... | 94.0 | 95.3 | 100.1 | 100.0 | 100.2 | 99.6 |
| Lumber and wood products.....do.... | 125.7 | 125.4 | 126.6 | 125.2 | r123.6 | 122.0 |
| Lumber.....do.... | 127.1 | 126.8 | 128.5 | 127.1 | r125.2 | 123.6 |
| Machinery and motive products.....do.... | 130.0 | 131.4 | 136.9 | 137.7 | r139.7 | 140.9 |
| Electrical machinery and equipment.....do.... | 130.6 | 130.7 | 137.4 | 138.0 | r142.0 | 143.2 |
| Motor vehicles.....do.... | 122.0 | 124.7 | 129.1 | 129.1 | 129.4 | 130.7 |
| Metals and metal products.....do.... | 141.9 | 142.4 | 144.9 | 150.2 | r151.9 | 151.9 |
| Iron and steel.....do.... | 145.0 | 145.7 | 149.9 | 159.4 | r161.5 | 161.1 |
| Nonmetallic minerals, structural.....do.... | 126.4 | 126.8 | 130.6 | 130.8 | 131.1 | 131.5 |
| Pulp, paper, and allied products.....do.... | 120.5 | 122.8 | 127.7 | 127.9 | r127.9 | 128.0 |
| Paper.....do.... | 131.0 | 131.2 | 138.2 | 138.2 | r138.9 | 138.9 |
| Rubber and products.....do.... | 151.7 | 147.8 | 143.3 | 146.9 | r145.7 | 145.8 |
| Textile products and apparel.....do.... | 95.4 | 95.4 | 94.9 | 94.8 | 94.8 | 95.4 |
| Apparel.....do.... | 98.6 | 98.7 | 99.8 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 99.7 |
| Tobacco manufactures and bottled beverages.....do.... | 121.7 | 121.7 | 121.7 | 122.5 | 122.8 | 123.1 |
| CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE | | | | | | |
| Engineering construction: | | | | | | |
| Contract awards (ENR) 2/.....mil. of dol.. | 1,786 | 1,526 | 1,835 | 1,828 | 1,480 | 1,878 |
| Highway concrete pavement contract awards: 3/ | | | | | | |
| Total.....thous. of sq. yd.. | 5,798 | 5,999 | 4,795 | 8,398 | 5,267 | 7,302 |
| Airports.....do.... | 490 | 1,052 | 408 | 1,486 | 695 | 953 |
| Roads.....do.... | 2,246 | 2,413 | 1,893 | 3,219 | 1,911 | 3,524 |
| Streets and alleys.....do.... | 3,062 | 2,534 | 2,494 | 3,693 | 2,661 | 2,825 |
| New permanent nonfarm dwelling units started: | | | | | | |
| Unadjusted: | | | | | | |
| Total, privately and publicly owned.....thousands.. | 114.9 | 105.8 | r101.1 | 101.0 | 93.0 | 93.0 |
| Privately owned, total.....do.... | 113.6 | 104.8 | r99.0 | 100.5 | 89.9 | 90.8 |
| In metropolitan areas.....do.... | 82.2 | 75.8 | r68.: | 69.0 | 60.8 | 62.5 |
| Publicly owned.....do.... | 1.3 | 1.0 | r2.1 | .5 | 3.1 | 2.2 |
| Seasonally adjusted at annual rate: | | | | | | |
| Privately owned, total.....do.... | 1,262.0 | 1,209.0 | 1,070.0 | 1,110.0 | 1,000.0 | 1,050.0 |
| Construction cost indexes: | | | | | | |
| Associated General Contractors (all types).....1913=100.. | 441 | 444 | 467 | 467 | 470 | 470 |
| Engineering News-Record: Building 4/.....1947-49=100.. | 142.0 | 141.8 | 145.3 | 147.9 | 147.7 | 148.0 |
| Construction 4/.....do.... | 148.8 | 148.6 | 153.7 | 155.6 | 155.4 | 155.4 |

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Goods to users, including raw foods and fuels. 2/ Data for September 1955 and August 1956 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks. 3/ Data for August and October 1956 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks. 4/ Data reported at the beginning of each month are shown here for the previous month.

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| ITEM | 1955 | | 1956 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | September | October | July | August | September | October |
| **FINANCE** | | | | | | |
| Stocks, cash dividend payments publicly reported: | | | | | | |
| Total dividend payments.....mil. of dol.. | 1,488.4 | 669.0 | 731.8 | 292.8 | 1,591.4 | 749.8 |
| Finance.....do.... | 108.5 | 128.5 | 147.9 | 64.3 | 105.3 | 142.6 |
| Manufacturing.....do.... | 985.7 | 234.9 | 254.1 | 122.9 | 1,080.9 | 269.6 |
| Mining.....do.... | 113.2 | 9.1 | 8.0 | 3.3 | 117.9 | 9.5 |
| Public utilities: | | | | | | |
| Communications.....do.... | 38.9 | 128.5 | 140.5 | 1.2 | 40.9 | 140.5 |
| Electric and gas.....do.... | 114.2 | 87.2 | 94.7 | 76.3 | 120.3 | 96.1 |
| Railroad.....do.... | 58.6 | 17.4 | 16.6 | 6.5 | 59.9 | 19.3 |
| Trade.....do.... | 41.1 | 55.7 | 61.7 | 10.3 | 42.3 | 61.9 |
| Miscellaneous.....do.... | 28.2 | 7.7 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 23.9 | 10.3 |
| **METALS AND MANUFACTURES** | | | | | | |
| Iron and steel scrap: | | | | | | |
| Production and receipts, total.....thous. of short tons.. | 6,786 | 7,248 | 2,304 | r6,127 | p6,726 | ..... |
| Home scrap produced.....do.... | 3,921 | 4,002 | 989 | r3,270 | p3,754 | ..... |
| Purchased scrap received (net).....do.... | 2,865 | 3,245 | 1,315 | r2,857 | p2,971 | ..... |
| Consumption, total.....do.... | 6,788 | 7,217 | 2,225 | r6,108 | p6,980 | ..... |
| Stocks, consumers', end of month.....do.... | 7,355 | 7,385 | 7,013 | r7,027 | p6,785 | ..... |
| Iron ore (Lake Superior district): | | | | | | |
| Shipments from upper lake ports.....thous. of long tons.. | 12,757 | 12,244 | 2,666 | 8,045 | 12,745 | 12,628 |
| Steel ingots and steel for castings: | | | | | | |
| Production.....thous. of short tons.. | 9,882 | 10,501 | 1,622 | 8,123 | r10,423 | 11,032 |
| Percent of capacity..... | 96 | 98 | 15 | 75 | 99 | 101 |
| **RUBBER AND RUBBER PRODUCTS** | | | | | | |
| Natural rubber: | | | | | | |
| Consumption.....long tons.. | 50,963 | 54,995 | 38,353 | r46,700 | 43,623 | ..... |
| Stocks, end of month.....do.... | 113,185 | 110,795 | 103,301 | r99,668 | 96,162 | ..... |
| Synthetic rubber: | | | | | | |
| Production.....do.... | 83,257 | 89,060 | 88,031 | 86,468 | 90,602 | ..... |
| Consumption.....do.... | 76,375 | 80,389 | 58,196 | r72,537 | 68,492 | ..... |
| Stocks, end of month.....do.... | 136,035 | 134,753 | 188,813 | r192,486 | 199,011 | ..... |
| Tires and tubes: | | | | | | |
| Pneumatic casings: | | | | | | |
| Production.....thousands.. | 9,125 | 9,555 | 6,741 | 8,050 | 7,800 | ..... |
| Shipments, total.....do.... | 8,453 | 8,117 | 9,298 | 8,644 | 6,952 | ..... |
| Original equipment.....do.... | 3,142 | 3,495 | 2,833 | 2,302 | 1,553 | ..... |
| Stocks, end of month.....do.... | 14,674 | 16,163 | 17,394 | 16,794 | 17,648 | ..... |
| Inner tubes: | | | | | | |
| Production.....do.... | 3,169 | 3,119 | 2,300 | 2,795 | 2,773 | ..... |
| Shipments.....do.... | 3,261 | 3,004 | 3,384 | 3,295 | 2,777 | ..... |
| Stocks, end of month.....do.... | 5,966 | 6,286 | 6,418 | 5,962 | 6,056 | ..... |
| **TEXTILE PRODUCTS** | | | | | | |
| Cotton: 1/ | | | | | | |
| Consumption.....bales.. | 873,738 | r736,860 | 549,520 | 686,275 | 822,180 | 732,319 |
| Manufactures: | | | | | | |
| Spindle activity (cotton system spindles): | | | | | | |
| Active spindles, last working day, total....thousands.. | 20,804 | r20,881 | 20,552 | 20,465 | 20,308 | 20,351 |
| Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do.... | 19,243 | 19,302 | 19,022 | 18,912 | 18,780 | 18,839 |
| Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total..mil. of hr.. | 12,295 | r10,295 | 7,713 | 9,544 | 11,436 | 9,847 |
| Average per working day.....do.... | 492 | r515 | 386 | 477 | 457 | 492 |
| Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do.... | 11,363 | 9,512 | 7,128 | 8,849 | 10,678 | 9,162 |

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for September 1955 and September 1956 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS